

MEETING OF
THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy. Dover, Delaware, August 15, 2012, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman
William H. "Chip" Narvel, Jr., Secretary
L. Allen Messick, Jr., Treasurer
Robert Emerson

Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture
Lisa Embert representing Chip Flowers, Jr., State Treasurer
Michael Valenti representing Steve Ditmer, Forestry Council
Kevin Coyle representing Collin O'Mara, Secretary of DNREC
Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.

The following staff members were in attendance: Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, and Chief of Planning, Howard Mesick, Scott Blaier, Cathy Mesick, Milton Melendez, Kathi Spangler, and Robin West.

Others in attendance: William Denman, Esq., and Mr. Gary Warren, President of the State Farm Bureau.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. The Chairman introduced Mr. Gary Warren to the Foundation Board.

I. Current Situation Report:

Robin West informed the Board that we have a total of 1,116 farms in preservation districts totaling 157,693 acres, with a total of 691 farms under agricultural easements totaling 105,135 acres at a cost of \$187,671,752. For PDR 17, there are a total of 148 farms, comprising 13,913 acres, with a value of \$57,441,010. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 37 Forestland Preservation Areas comprising 2,711 acres. For the Forestland Preservation Area Easements, there are a total of 9 properties, comprising 872 acres, with a value of \$1,450,804. For the Young Farmers Program there are a total of 10 Young Farmers program loans which have gone through the settlement process, with an easement value of \$3,878,524. Thirty-two prequalification applications have been received so far with only one being unapproved.

II. Monitoring Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that 450 out of 664 scheduled non-federally funded parcels have been visited this year. A total of 927 parcels (federal and non-federal) are scheduled for review in 2012, of which 713 parcels have been visited so far. All 263 federally funded parcels have been visited.

III. Young Farmers Report – Austin Short informed the Board that all ten settlements have been completed for Round 1 of the Young Farmers program. Secretary Kee complimented the staff on the Young Farmers ceremony on August 1, and mentioned an article about Young Farmers programs in this week's *Delmarva Farmer*.

William Vanderwende asked how Young Farmers program loan applicants can participate in public auctions of property. After discussion it was decided to allow William Denman look into this for the Board.

William Vanderwende asked about prorating Young Farmer loans when there are too many applicants for the available funding, instead of going through the bid process (similar to the bid process for the Farmland Preservation program.) After discussion, the Board asked William Denman to look into this as well.

IV. Forestland Preservation Area Eligibility & Final Approval:

1. Thompson Acres Forestland Preservation Area, ID#F-K-12-06-092I-054. Presentation was made by Milton Melendez. Mr. Melendez informed the Board that this property did not qualify because it was under the minimum acreage amount of ten forested acres. After discussion, Chairman Garey stated that this property would be removed from the Board's consideration for the Forestland Preservation program.

V. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval:

1. Thompson Acres Expansion of the Woikoski Farms District, ID#K-12-06-092I. Mr. Milton Melendez presented this property to the Board, informing them that the property did not meet the minimum income

requirement to be considered as a farm under the program. After discussion, Chairman Garey stated that the property would be removed from consideration by the Board for the farmland preservation program.

2. Water Girls Farm Expansion of the Howard R. Young & Sons, Inc. District, ID#S-12-04-189C. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Water Girls Farm Expansion of the Howard R. Young & Sons, Inc. District, seconded by Chip Narvel, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**
3. Abbott Expansion of the Mitchell-Quillen District, ID#K-11-12-088H. Mr. Milton Melendez presented this property, informing the Board that the landowner, Mrs. Diana Abbott, had just called him and requested that the property not be considered for inclusion in the program. Mrs. Abbott believes that she may wish to bring it into the program at a later time. After discussion, the Board asked that Mr. Denman or Mr. Parkowski meet with either Mrs. Abbott or her attorney if this property is to be reconsidered at a future date.

VI. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval (Contingent Sale):

1. Rife Expansion of the Severson Neck District, ID#K-11-12-081G. After discussion, **Chip Narvel, Jr. moved to accept for eligibility/final approval, contingent upon sale, the Rife Expansion of the Severson Neck District, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

VII. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval (District Update):

1. Bobola-Voshell's Cove District Update Expansion of the Bobola-Voshell's Cove District, ID#K-97-01-163-1. Mr. Scott Blaier informed the Board that the LESA score, under the new system, is 174, which meets the requirement of a minimum of 170. Mr. Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. abstained from voting due to conflict of interest. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Bobola-Voshell's Cove District Update Expansion of the Bobola-Voshell's Cove District, seconded by Chip Narvel, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

VII. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto – Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee waived the right of veto for the above Expansions.

VIII. Public Comments – Mr. Gary Warren informed the Board that New Castle County government is considering a special zoning district for the agriculture industry in the southern portion of the County. He wanted the Board to be aware that this zoning change could have a negative impact on Delaware's farmland preservation program.

IX. Minutes:

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the July 18, 2012 minutes. Hearing no changes, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **William Vanderwende moved to approve the July minutes, seconded by Ed Kee. Motion unanimously approved.**

X. Financial Highlights:

Howard Mesick presented the Financial Statement for the month of July 31, 2012, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of July 31, 2012, \$76,573.73 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. Expenditures for the month of July totaled \$9,383.06. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept the July financial statement as presented, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

Howard Mesick informed the Board that there will be no audit presentation at today's Foundation meeting. We are still waiting for the Auditor's Office to give the approval for the presentation.

XI. Executive Session – Mr. Denman indicated that no Executive Session was necessary.

XII. Other Business:

1. Wilson Farm

Austin Short presented to the Board a draft letter to Mrs. Ellen Magee outlining the proposed terms for amending her lease for the Wilson farm. After discussion, **Allen Messick, Jr. moved to approve the letter as presented and to mail it to Mrs. Magee, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

XIII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on September 19, 2012 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert F. Garey
Chairman